

Madam Speaker, I am here today because I woke up this morning with the thought of steelworkers on my mind, some of the 1,500 steelworkers whose jobs are now at risk since the Sun Oil Refinery announced last week that it is getting out of the refining business—in essence, the inability to compete because of the overregulation that we have—and these jobs are going to be shipped overseas.

Good union-paying American jobs that could be here, because of the policies that are coming out of Washington, are being destroyed and sent overseas. It is counterintuitive; it is counterproductive. We must use common sense.

We can't let the rhetoric stand in the way of reality. We must fight for the future of those jobs while we fight for clean air.

AMERICAN JOBS ACT

(Mr. SIREs asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, the President has offered a clear path forward to put the country back to work, help small business succeed and hire, provide tax relief for our workers, and rebuild America.

The American Jobs Act will provide an immediate boost to our economy through job creation and tax relief for American workers and businesses. Specifically, this plan will prevent teacher layoffs and keep firefighters and police officers on the job.

It will support the modernization of at least 35,000 public schools across the country to ensure that every student has access to a 21st century education. This plan will create even more jobs by investing in America's crumbling infrastructure by rebuilding our roads, rebuilding our railways, and rebuilding our airports.

Finally, the American Jobs Act will cut payroll taxes in half for at least 160 million workers next year, allow more Americans to refinance their homes at today's near 4 percent interest rates, and provide incentives for employers to hire long-term unemployed workers.

Madam Speaker, Americans across this country are counting on this Congress to swiftly act to create jobs and rebuild our economy.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, when the health care bill known as ObamaCare was being debated in this Congress, Republicans said the bill would bankrupt our country, ration care for seniors, and cost Americans jobs.

Well, that's exactly what will be happening if the new provision of the law goes into effect next week. Unelected

Washington bureaucrats have ignored calls from Congress asking for a delay in Medicare cuts to skilled nursing facilities and rehab centers.

My colleagues know that I have a reputation for being one of the more fiscally conservative Members of Congress. I understand the need for cuts. But as one medical professional recently said: "If I'm told I need an amputation, I'd like to know what limb is being cut off."

The administration is proposing a reckless cut of nearly 13 percent to skilled nursing facilities and rehab centers. Eighty percent of the overhead at these facilities is staffed, meaning the people who take care of our seniors will be the first to lose their jobs. Receiving a lower quality of care at rehab centers means there's a greater chance that patients will spend more time at a costly hospital, resulting in higher overall costs.

Madam Speaker, this isn't common sense. This policy isn't thinking smart. Our seniors deserve better, and I strongly urge the administration to reconsider their position.

□ 1230

ARTIFICIAL PANCREAS TO HELP TREAT DIABETES

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the artificial pancreas, which will transform the way we treat diabetes in our country. Millions of Americans have diabetes. Diabetes accounts for approximately \$174 billion in health care costs in the U.S. each year, 32 percent of our Medicare expenditures.

Studies show that tight control of blood glucose levels significantly reduces or delays the development of diabetic complications. Most patients with diabetes cannot achieve tight glucose control with traditional diabetes tools. Erratic blood glucose levels can cause devastating complications, including kidney failure, blindness, nerve damage, amputations, heart attack, and stroke.

The artificial pancreas can allow individuals suffering from diabetes to regulate their blood glucose levels using an insulin pump and a sensor. The system can prevent low and high glucose levels and help individuals with diabetes avoid the worst and most costly complications while allowing them to remain healthy until a cure is found.

In April of this year, 250 Members of the House, myself included, and 60 Senators sent a letter to the FDA urging them to approve the artificial pancreas. I am encouraged by FDA's response to have a decision by December.

END BURDENSOME REGULATIONS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, since this year began, the United States House has put forth measure after measure to incentivize growth and end burdensome regulations, only to see them stall in the Senate and be ignored by the President.

Two years after passage of the stimulus, unemployment remains at staggering levels, despite billions of dollars still sitting in government coffers. It was my hope that the President would move past his stimulus spending proposals and offer real economic relief. While some of the President's proposals put forward in his Joint Session speech merit consideration, this bill is no substitute for the targeted, long-term policies needed to empower private sector investment by facilitating an economic climate where businesses have the confidence to hire workers and take on new endeavors.

We're not talking about real, pro-growth tax reform and regulatory relief because it sounds good. It's what our economy needs, and badly.

It's time for Congress—both Chambers—and the President to recognize the pressing need for real tax relief and aggressive regulatory reform. It's time for a new direction, and it's time for action.

PASS THE AMERICAN JOBS ACT

(Mr. SARBANES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I want to commend the President for the American Jobs Act. This bill gets squarely behind the program of putting our country back to work and rebuilding the Nation.

As you go around and you talk to people, Americans understand implicitly that we have to rebuild this country and make it strong. That means a lot of things, but, first and foremost, it means investing in our infrastructure, rebuilding our bridges, tunnels, and highways; and this bill would put resources towards that task, investing in human capital, education, innovation, technology, entrepreneurship. This bill would make sure that teachers go back to work so they can teach our young people in the classroom, investing in strong communities.

This bill would support resources for our firefighters, put more police officers out there on the beat. That's investing in communities. We have to rebuild this country. The American Jobs Act does that. Let's pass the American Jobs Act, put this country back to work.